

7 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

A/B, VII, 9, 5

SUBJECT: Exploration of Potent Plant Resources in the Caribbean Region

The assignment had a four-fold purpose, namely:

1. To collect specific plant products and other promising drugs in sufficient bulk for study, appraisal and exploitation.
2. To gain, through personal contact with this region, the desired orientation concerning the natural drug resources, the institutions and personnel engaged in developing or testing them, and individuals especially familiar with native potent plants and medicines.
3. To explore every opportunity to enrich our knowledge of hidden treasures in potent plant resources, either native or introduced, to learn of their availability, their place of growth and the season of maturity, and to record their reported or proven value.
4. To collect published data, manuscripts, lists and notes dealing with potent plant resources found in the Caribbean and neighboring regions.

The following twelve countries or regions were visited and explored as thoroughly as time permitted: Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Tobago, Martinique, Dominica, Guadalupe, St. Thomas, and the Water Isle of the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and Cuba. In addition, personal inquiries were made in Miami in contact with Government officials engaged in plant introduction, in the [redacted] with staff members active in the study of plants and plant products. A chart of the area explored is attached. C

The results were most gratifying, inasmuch as provisions made for the trip, the season selected, and the weather were very favorable for observation and collection, and the fullest cooperation was obtained from all officials and other individuals contacted.

To assure the desired complete success of the exploration, the following recommendations are respectfully suggested.

[redacted]

1. Evaluation of the most promising potent agents collected, and exploitation where warranted.
2. The conclusion of cooperative agreements such as those with the

[REDACTED]

3. To establish or set aside token-cooperative funds to pay the expenses incurred for labor in growing, collection and transportation.
4. To maintain the contacts made and develop new ones for the continued exploration of additional natural potent resources, including especially the mushrooms and other fungi, having psychogenic properties. Particularly promising sources for further study are the native Carib ceremonial drugs of Dominica and the domestic cerebral drugs of the Virgin Islands and Haiti.
5. To arrange for adequate cover for field contacts, such as the functioning as a consultant for the [REDACTED] or the [REDACTED] with the continued cooperation of [REDACTED]

Attachments:

- I Institutions and Personnel Contacted
- II Caribbean Collections, 16 Dec 54 - 25 Jan 55
- IIIa Potential Sources of Potent Plant Products
- IIIb Potential Sources of Potent Fungal Products
- IV Caribbean Collections, 16 Dec 54 - 25 Jan 55

Distribution:

Orig [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

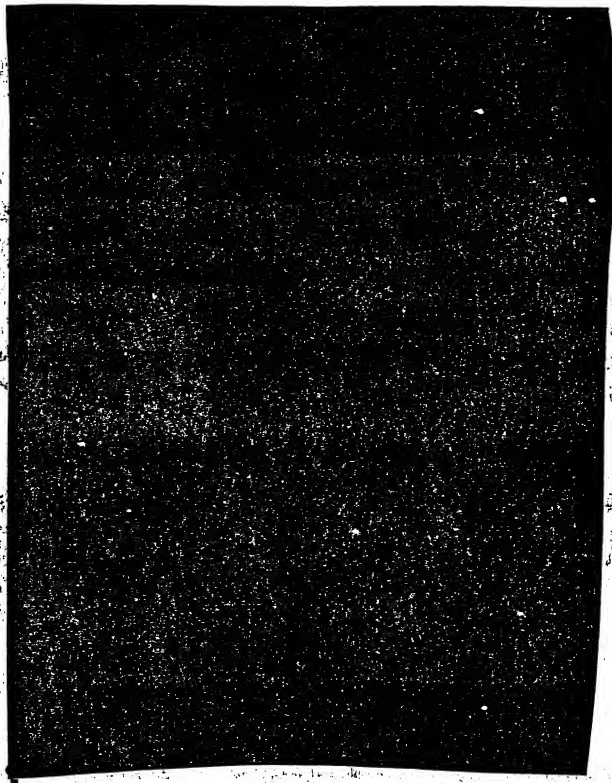
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I Institutions and Personnel Contacted:

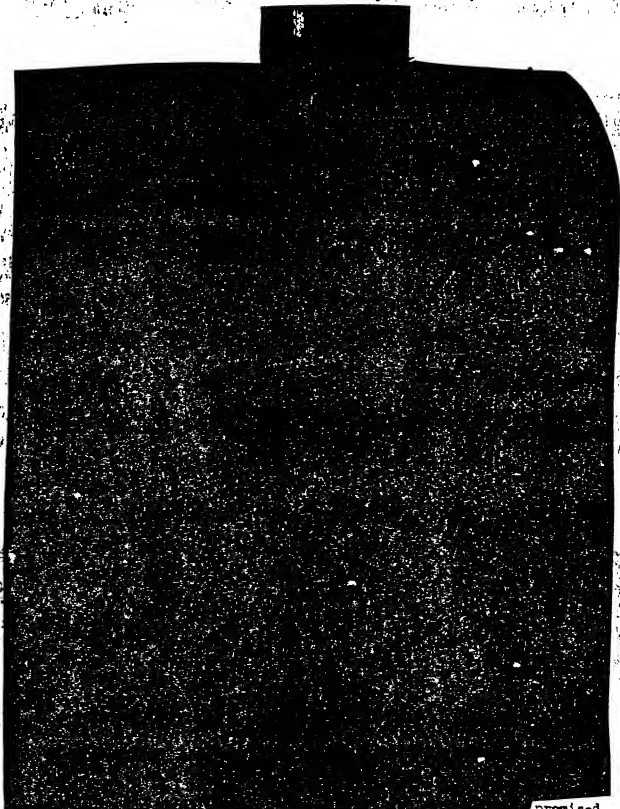



C





C

 C
promised
to cooperate in any survey of poisonous or potent plants, as well as
in efforts to grow them under control.



1 - 17 - 53

1. Set up a cooperative agreement and fund between your office
in [REDACTED] C
 2. Ask us for the seed and plant samples you wish.
 3. We will determine the cost of obtaining the samples and shipping them to you.
 4. Your office deposit the necessary fund in the cooperative account.
 5. We will have the material collected and send it to you.
 6. We will pay the expense incurred from the cooperative fund.
- [REDACTED] A
- [REDACTED]

II. CAMBODIAN COLLECTIONS, DECEMBER 16, 1954 - JANUARY 25, 1955:

No.	Plant Material	Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Chemical Action
1	<i>Abrus Brionum</i> ?	seed	Virgia Isles	Leguminosae	Abrin ?	
2	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	seed	Martinique	Leguminosae	Phytotoxin	Used in malingering
	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	seed	Virgin Isles	Leguminosae	Phytotoxin	Toxic
		root	India	Leguminosae		Abortive
3	<i>Adenanthera pavonina</i>	seed	Dominica	Leguminosae	Alkaloid ?	Indicant
4	<i>Alseodora moluccana</i>	fruit, seed	Puerto Rico	Euphorbiaceae	Phytotoxin	Toxic
5	<i>Andira inermis</i>	fruit, seed	Virgin Isles	Leguminosae	8-acetyltyrosine	Narcotic
6	<i>Annona muricata</i>	fruit, seed	Dominica	Annonaceae	Nurtative, Nurtative	Sedative
7	<i>Barringtonia speciosa</i>	fruit, seed	Haiti ?	Legythidaceae	Saponin ?	Fish poison
8	<i>Bilghia sapida</i>	fruit, seed	Dominica	Sepindaceae	Saponin ?	Very toxic, irritative
	<i>Bilghia sapida</i>	artl, pulp	Jamaica	Sepindaceae		Very toxic, irritative
9	<i>Coccolophila coriaria</i>	fruit, seed	Jamaica	Leguminosae		Diatinsectant Antiparasitic
10	<i>Datura metel</i>	fruit, seed	Puerto Rico	Solanaceae	Scopolamine, Hyoscyamine	Stupeficient
11	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	fruit, seed	Puerto Rico	Solanaceae	Hyoscyamine	Antispasmodic, Arrow Poison

Plant	Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Criminal Action
12 <i>Bauhinia Tabula</i>	fruit, seed	Puerto Rico	Golaniaceae	Hyoscyamine ?	Antispasmodic, Arrow Poison
13 <i>Dioscorea alata</i>	stem, leaves	Puerto Rico	Araceae	Oxalic acid ?	Painful swelling, temporary blindness
	roots, juice	S. America	Araceae	Oxalic acid	Addition to arrow poison
14 <i>Diospyros ebenaster</i>	fruit, seed	Dominica	Ebenaceae	?	Fish Poison (unripe fruit)
15 <i>Erythrina indica</i>	fruit, seed	Cuba	Leguminosae	Alkaloids	Psychogenic agent
16 <i>Erythrina senegalensis</i>	seed	Jamaica	Leguminosae	Erythramine ?	Psychogenic agent
17 <i>Ficus Benjamina</i>	fruit, seed	Dominica	Moraceae	Flavin ?	Proteolytic enzyme in latex
18 <i>Hura crepitans</i>	fruit, seed	Puerto Rico	Euphorbiaceae	Phytotoxin	Fish poison, latex used in arrow poison
19 <i>Jatropha curcas</i>	latex	Dom. Repub.	Euphorbiaceae	harin	Arrow poison mixture
20 <i>Jatropha multifida</i>	fruit, seed	Virgin Isles	Euphorbiaceae	Phytotoxin curcin Toxic	
21 <i>Jatropha curcas</i>	latex	Jamaica	Euphorbiaceae	Phytotoxin curcin Toxic, resin, irritant	
22 <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	leaves	W. Indies	Euphorbiaceae	?	Drastic, abortive
22 <i>Mimosa pruriens</i>	Pods, seeds	Puerto Rico	Leguminosae	Mucunine, Mucunidine ?	Pyroostigmine-like base

No. Material	Plant Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Ortinal Action
23	Mucuna Bloemii	Puerto Rico	Leguminosae	humaine, monamine	?
24	Ormosa Kuntii	Puerto Rico	Leguminosae	Ormosin, Ormosinine	Psychogenic agent ?
25	Ormosa Konopertina	Dominica	Leguminosae	Ormosin, Ormosinine	Psychogenic agent ?
26	Ormosa dasycarpa	Dominica	Leguminosae	Ormosin, Ormosinine	Morphine like ?
27	Piptadenia peregrina	Puerto Rico	Leguminosae	Bufotenin, apprax. 70% Bufotenin	Psychogenic narcotic Stimulant
28	Rhynchosia phaseoloides	Puerto Rico	Leguminosae		Psychogenic
29	Rhynchosia minima	Cuba	Leguminosae		Toxic
30	Ribes corymbosum	Cuba Hawaii Tobago Cuba Cuba Cuba	Convolvulaceae Convolvulaceae Convolvulaceae Convolvulaceae Convolvulaceae Convolvulaceae		Psychogenic Inotropic ?
31	Sophora tomentosa	Cuba	Leguminosae	Cytidin	Psychogenic
	Sophora coarctata	Trinidad			

No. Material

Plant

Part

Collected

Source

Family

Constituent

Physiological and
Clinical Action

32 Tabernaemontana
altifolia

roots

Guadalupe

Apocynaceae

Tabernaemontanine latex
Coronariline ? Arrow poison ?

33 Tephrosia alutrea

pod, seeds

Dominica
Guadalupe

Leguminosae

Tephrosin

? Fish poison, toxic
additive to arrow
poison

III. Potential Sources of Potent Plant Products

No.	Plant Material	Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Chemical Action
1	<i>Aspidosiphon arborescens</i> "Wild Tobacco"		Quadrangle Trinidad, Tobago	Solanaceae		Toxic, narcotic
2	<i>Adansonia digitata</i> "Cintee Samrand"	Fruit	St. Thomas	Bombacaceae		
3	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> "Stupid Bush"		St. Thomas Puerto Rico	Amaranthaceae		Psychogenic agent Painful use
4	<i>Adansonia reticulata</i>	Fruit, seed	St. Thomas, Dominica	Annonaceae		Narcotic, specific antidysent, vermifuge
5	<i>Brownea latiflora</i> <i>grandiflora</i>	Wood	St. Thomas	Leguminosae		Nauseant
6	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> Indians	Leaves	St. Thomas Baili, V. Indies	Leguminosae		Against toothache "Abscess in mouth" abortive
7	<i>Cecropia peltata</i>	Latex	Baili, Trinidad Mexico	Moraceae		Alkaloid coumarins Caustic
8	<i>Cerbera doliana</i> G.	Seeds	Trinidad	Apocynaceae		Alkaloid coumarins
9	<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	Leaves	Baili, Mexico Trinidad	Solanaceae		Cerberin Polysaccharides Antispasmodic, anti-epileptic
10	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>		Baili, Puerto Rico Mexico	Menispermaceae		Alkaloids Debauching Antidote

No.	Plant Material	Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Criminal Action
11	<i>Clitellaria rubiginosa</i> <i>Clitellaria sylvatica</i> "Miyaga"	Leaves	St. Thomas Guadalupe	Compositae		Fish poison
12	<i>Cosmos caudatus</i> H.B.K.	Leaves	Trinidad, Puerto Rico Haiti	Compositae	Volatile oil	
13	<i>Croton humilis</i> L.	Leaves	St. Thomas, Haiti, Mexico	Fig. Umbelliferae	crotonoside	Heart stimulant
14	<i>Euphorbia tarcuilla</i>	Latex	St. Thomas	Euphorbiaceae		Very potent
15	<i>Purpurea tuberosa</i> (<i>Pourouma tuberosa</i>)	Roots Juice	St. Thomas Puerto Rico	Asclepiadaceae	Saponin	Poisonous
16	<i>Pumaria muralis</i> S.		Haiti	Leguminosae	Pumarine, proteoglycan	Narcotic
17	<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	Leaves	Haiti	Leguminosae		Cure of fright & terror, redent poison
18	<i>Shorea mangrove</i>	Latex	West Indies	Euphorbiaceae		Arrow poison, very toxic, causing temporary blindness
19	<i>Hibiscus proteus</i> Roxb.	Seeds	Mexico	Malvaceae	Glucoside-alkaloid?	Intoxicant, anti-scale bite.
20	<i>Ipomoea alata</i>	Leaves	Trinidad, Tobago	Convolvulaceae		Poisonous to cattle

Plant No. Material	Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Criminal Action
21 <i>Lactuca sativa</i> ?	latex ?	Guadalupe Haiti	Compositae	Lactucin, hyocyan.	Hemecolia
22 <i>Leucaena glauca</i> L.B.	leaves	St. Thomas, Haiti Trinidad	Leguminosae		Causing shedding of hair (mane & tail of horses)
23 <i>Lonchocarpus violaceus</i> wood		West Indies	Leguminosae	Notanone ?	Fish poison
24 <i>Momordica charantia</i>		West Indies	Cucurbitaceae	Alkaloids, incl. momordicine	Culant
25 <i>Morinda citrifolia</i> <i>Morinda Douglour</i> <i>citrifolia</i>	leaves	St. Thomas Haiti	Rubiaceae	<i>Morinda</i> (root, bark)	Analgesic
26 <i>Panax acrotoloni</i> L.	roots ?	Guadalupe	Araliaceae		Excellent analgesic
27 <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> L.		West Indies	Compositae	Parthenin	Analgesic
28 <i>Passeflora laurifolia</i>		Trinidad Haiti	Passefloraceae	<i>Passeflora</i> ?	Opium-like
29 <i>Passeflora quadrangu-</i> <i>laris</i>	root	Guadalupe Haiti	Passefloraceae		Toxic
30 <i>Paullinia curupa</i> L.	fruit	Guadalupe	Sapindaceae	Curarine ?	Fish poison
31 <i>Paullinia pinnata</i>	plant	W. Indies, Haiti			Fish poison
32 <i>Physalis angulata</i>	roots	Puerto Rico, Haiti	Solanaceae		Analgesic

No.	Plant Material	Part Collected	Source	Family	Constituent	Physiological and Oriminal Action
33	<i>Phytolacca tosoniana</i>		Guadalupe Haiti	Phytolaccaceae		Narcotic
34	<i>Piptadenia flava</i>	fruit, seed leaves	Trinidad	Leguminosae	butanolin ?	Stimulant ?
35	<i>Pithecolobium arborescens</i> "Poison lasnatico"		Mexico, Haiti, V. Indies	Leguminosae	Pithecolobine ?	Psychogenic agent ?
36	<i>Roupala montana</i> "Bols bande"	bark	V. Indies	Protocaeae		Nerve stimulant
37	<i>Saportatus dulcis</i>		Guadalupe, Haiti, Puerto Rico	Euraphiaris- ceae	Alkaloid	Opium substitute emetic
38	<i>Solanum mammosum</i>	fruit	Dominica Haiti Trinidad	Solanaceae	Alkaloids ?	Karcotic
39	<i>Solanella anthelmata</i>	leaves	Trinidad Haiti Guadalupe Puerto Rico	Loganiaceae	Alkaloid epigaline ?	Potomous vermifuge
40	<i>Strophoms cravi G.</i>	seed	Haiti	Loganiaceae	Strophomins, brunine ?	Convulsant ?
41	<i>Verbascum alata</i> "Information bush"		St. Thomas Haiti Puerto Rico	Compositae		Psychogenic agent ?
42	<i>Yucca elata aculeata</i>		St. Thomas	Verbanaceae		Aniispasmodic

* Most promising sources are underlined.

IIIb Potential Sources of Potent Fungal Products

Mushrooms, believed to affect
the Central Nervous System.

Sources

Season

Amanita muscaria Linn.

Fairly common

Fall

" pantherina D.C.

Local

Summer

" phalloides Fr.

" verna Bull.

" Mappa Linn. (Amanita virosa,
Amanita citrina)

" strobiliformis

Woods

Midsummer

Boletus calopus

luridus Schaef.—red-pored Boletus

setatus Leas.—white-topped Boletus

Stropharia coronilla

semiglobata—with hemispherical cap,
on dung Common

stereocaria

Mexico

Summer

masatecorum

Inocybe asterospora

geophylla

brunnea

hirsuta

cinnamomea

lamiginosa

Europe only

descaissa

obscura

enthalia

praetervisa

Clitocybe cerusata

dealbata

illudens Schy.—Giant Clitocybe

Canada, Florida

Summer

phyllophila

pithyophila

sudorifica (Sweet producing)

virulosa

Hebeloma fastibile

Corrinus atramentarius (with alcohol)*Inky Cap*

Kenneth Square

pergolensis, with narcotic odor, with

Mushroom Beds

deliquescent gills

Gyromitra exculenta - ?

Leioista Morzani—in fairy rings

Leaves, local

Summer

Lactaria terminosus Fr.—Large-sized with
colored acid latex

Lactarius

	Source	Season
<u>Panazolus campanulatus</u> Linn. sphinctricus	Mexico	Summer
ovatus	U.S. Wales	
<u>capillonegus</u>		
<u>retrovagin</u> —gills non-deliquescent		(Rainy season)
<u>ychnospora</u> <u>Wurtz</u>		
<u>micicola</u> Fr.		
<u>Russula emetica</u> Fr. extremely acrid		Summer, Fall
<u>Palloryza subbasia</u>	Cuba (on dung)	

NOTE: Those items underscored are the most important potential sources.

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approximately 1000 species, mostly herbs of warm regions (including arisanentals), with potent alkaloids, especially in tubers; lycoctins and derivatives, biogenics, minor alkaloids and saponins, yielding arrow poisons, acetates, affecting the central nervous system, etc.

[illegible]

Plant	Species	Author Source	Pl. Part	Potent Agent	Nature	Act	Effect	Reference
*Clivia	Minia	Benth	Root	Lycorine	Alkaloid	0.3		Berry 49
*Cooperia	Dryasodill Pseudonotala	Herb Java, Tex, Mex	Fresh Bulb	"	"	0.04- 0.05 1.0- 1.8 0.018		Herb 52
*Crinum	Asiatium	Java	Root	"	"	0.018		Herb 52
"	Japanicum	Japan	Bulb	"	"	1.0- 1.5 0.9		Herb 52
"	Pratanse	Herb Java	Root	"	"			Herb 52
*Crematog	Scabrum	Herb R. Br.	Root	"	"			Herb 52
"	Waltheria	Night	"	"	"			Herb 52
"	Orchilodes	Caesia	"	"	"			Herb 52
"	Stans	Labill	"	"	"			Herb 52
"	Wlmar	Sem.	"	"	"			Herb 52
(Hypocis Crinitatus	Pallidus	Stems	Bulb Root Rhizomes	Lycorine	Alkaloid tree			Herb 52
*Eucharis	Grandiflora	Planch	Root	Lycorine	Alkaloid	0.45- 0.75		Herb 52
*Burgales	Elvestris Amboinensis	Salisb Java, Malaya	Root	"	"			Herb 52

Plant	Species	Author Source	Pt. Part	Potent Agents	Native	Alt.	Pt. of Cost	References
Tournefortia	Cubensis Ciliataea Poitida R.)	Vent Trop. Amer.	Sap		Sapodina			Werner 29
Galanthus	Nivalis	Burpee N. Asia Lower Don	Bulb	Tasettine, Lemnoline, Anacostine	Alkaloids	1.03 0.60		Sokolov 52 Karske & Holmes 52
Veronica	Veronica	Lodinsk	Bulbs Leaves					
Hamanthus	Tortuosus	S. Afr.		Hamanthine	Alkaloid Mixture		Atropine-like Hypocistis, Trebellin, Spirams, Hyd- riactis, erect poison Toxic	Karske & Holmes 1952 L. Lewis 23
Hippocistis	Reginae Betonlat. Bullum Littorealis	Berb Brazil Vaz, W. Ind. Jave	Bulb Root	Lycorine	Alkaloid	0.015		Werner 29
Veronica	Aestivum	L.	Bulb	Laucojin, Ducocostine	Alkaloid		Isoside	Werner 29
Lycoris	Verum Radialis	L. Herb	Root	Lycorine Sakisanine				Sokolov 52

Plant	Species	Author Source	Pl. Part	Potent Agents	Nature	Alt	Effect	References
Merina	Japanica	Miq	Japan	Lycoramine, Salsanoline				Reed 36
Karwins	Orientalis			Lycoramine, Salsanoline				Scholar 52
"	Prinopsis	Potians Cult L.	Uraline Ex.	Bulb	Minor Alkaloid	Trace		Werner 29
"	Pseudo-narcis. L.	G. Europe	Fresh bulb	Lycorine Sesamine ?	Alkaloid Alkaloid	0.2	Emetic	Werner 35
"	Taricta	L.						
Pancratium	Zeylanicum	L.	Z. Indies	Lycorin	Alkaloid		Emetic, Purag. plug	Burkill 35
Polyanthes	Tuberosa	L.	C. Am., F. Ind					
Synedrella	Formosensis	Herb	Mex. V. Ind.	Lycorin	Alkaloid	0.9		Hanaka & Holmes 52
(Anacallis ?)								
Agave	Severoviti	Bgl.		Transettine Ageridine, Lycorine	Alkaloid	0.067- 0.11	Emetic	Hanaka & Holmes 52
	Tadulirum	Ured						
Leptorhynchus	Carpatia	Herb	N. Zealand	Buphenanth ?	Alkaloid			
"	Grandiflora	Kindl						
"	Rosea	Kindl	Java	Lycorine		Trace		
"	Tecoma	Herb				0.02		Causing Stag- gers in horses Valmer 29

Footnote: * In cultivation - as ornamentals, etc.
Items underlined are the most promising agents.